

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication method of communicating digital information of different data formats through a bridge unit located between at least two communication units able to communicate by at least one of the data formats, wherein the method comprises:

- a reception operation of receiving digital information having a first format, transmitted via a first communication channel from a communication unit that uses the first format;
- a determination operation of determining at least a need to reformat received digital information having the first format according to resources available on a second communication channel;
- a determination operation for determining a bandwidth allocation on the second communication channel in order to provide a minimum service of reformatting the received digital information;
- a reformat operation of reformatting the received digital information having the first format to digital information having a second format different from the first format and selected among a plurality of second formats, if a need is determined and if the allocation of the bandwidth is determined; and

- a transmission operation of transmitting the digital information having the second format via the second channel to one of the communication units,

wherein said determination operation for determining a bandwidth allocation comprises:

- a request operation of requesting an allocation of a bandwidth that is necessary for transmitting the digital information having a second format;

- a determination operation for determining whether the requested bandwidth allocation is allocated;

- in a case in which the requested bandwidth allocation is not allocated, a renegotiation operation for requesting an allocation of a new bandwidth.

Claims 2-17 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A bridge for communicating digital information of different data formats between at least two communication units able to communicate by at least one of the data formats, wherein the bridge:

- includes receiving means for receiving digital information having a first format transmitted via a first communication channel from a first communication unit that uses the first format,

- includes determination means for determining at least a need to reformat received digital information having the first format according to resources available on a second communication channel,

- includes determination means for determining a bandwidth allocation on the second communication channel in order to provide a minimum service of reformatting the received digital information,

- includes reformatting means for reformatting the received digital information having the first format to digital information having a second format different from the first format and selected among a plurality of second formats, if a need is determined and if the allocation of the bandwidth is determined, and

- is adapted to perform a transmission operation to transmit the digital information having the second format, via the second channel to one of the communication units,

wherein said determination means for determining a bandwidth allocation comprises:

- a request unit that is adapted to request an allocation of a bandwidth that is necessary for transmitting the digital information having a second format,

- a determination unit for determining whether the requested bandwidth allocation is allocated, and

- a renegotiation unit for requesting an allocation of a new bandwidth in case the requested bandwidth allocation is not allocated.

Claims 18-61 (canceled)

Claim 62. (currently amended): A communication method according to Claim [[61]] 1 wherein the renegotiation is ~~not possible~~ withdrawn in a case of reaching a

predetermined number of fruitless attempts for requesting an allocation ~~allocating requested~~ of a new bandwidth.

Claim 63. (currently amended): A communication method according to Claim [[61]] 62, wherein, in a case in which the renegotiation is ~~not possible~~ withdrawn, the reformat operation is not performed.

Claims 64-65 (canceled)